

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

24. (previously presented) A removable elastic positioning appliance comprising:

a shell having a hollow cavity shaped to receive and reposition teeth from a first orientation to a successive orientation, the shell having at least one protrusion disposed along an edge of the hollow cavity, which protrusion contacts a plurality of teeth to assist in holding the appliance in position, wherein the at least one protrusion comprises a continuous protrusion disposed along said edge which is configured to fit in the undercut of the plurality of teeth and to contact said plurality of teeth along the length of the gingival margin and interdental areas between said teeth.

25. (previously presented) An appliance as in claim 24, further comprising at least one additional protrusion configured to contact the interdental areas.

26-27. (canceled)

28. (original) An appliance as in claim 24, wherein the at least one protrusion is mountable on the appliance.

29. (new) An appliance as in claim 24, wherein the at least one protrusion is adapted to provide increased stability.

30. (new) An appliance as in claim 24, wherein the at least one protrusion is adapted to provide shortened treatment time.

31. (new) An appliance as in claim 24, wherein the at least one protrusion is adapted to provide patient compliance.

32. (new) A removable elastic positioning appliance comprising:

a shell having a hollow cavity shaped to receive and reposition teeth from a first orientation to a successive orientation, said shell having a channel with a first wall adapted to engage the buccal surface of the teeth and a second wall adapted to engage the lingual surface of the teeth, the walls each having a continuous terminus along an edge thereof, wherein a first continuous protrusion is disposed along the edge of the first wall and a second continuous protrusion is disposed along the edge of the second wall, each continuous protrusion spanning the length of each edge and sized to fit in the undercut of the teeth and contact the teeth along the length of the gingival margin and interdental areas of the teeth on both the buccal side and the lingual side of the teeth to hold the appliance in position.

33. (new) An appliance as in claim 32, wherein the first continuous protrusion and the second continuous protrusion are embedded in the shell.

34. (new) An appliance as in claim 32, wherein the first continuous protrusion and the second continuous protrusion are mountable on the shell.

35. (new) An appliance as in claim 32, wherein the first continuous protrusion and the second continuous are adapted to provide increased stability.

36. (new) An appliance as in claim 32, wherein the first continuous protrusion and the second continuous are adapted to provide shortened treatment time.

37. (new) An appliance as in claim 32, wherein the first continuous protrusion and the second continuous are adapted to provide patient compliance.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24, 25, and 28 were examined. New claims 29-37 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

All claims continue to be rejected as either being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,267,862 to Parker (hereinafter Parker) or obvious over the combination of Parker and U.S. Patent No. 5,645,420 to Bergersen (hereinafter Bergersen). Applicants submit that independent claim 24 along with claims 25 and 28, which depend thereon, are allowable over the cited references for the same reasons discussed in the Amendment of October 25, 2007.

Applicants further emphasize that the protrusion of claim 24 is "configured to fit in the undercut of the plurality of teeth". In other words, the protrusion has an appropriate geometry to fit in the undercut of a tooth. Parker does not teach that projections 60 and 62 are configured such that they would fit in the undercut of the tooth (see Fig. 15B). Parker states that the height of the contour of each tooth lies occlusional to the projections. As one skilled in the art would understand from the context of the description, this only means that projections are positioned in relation to the contour of the teeth such that appliance of Parker is maintained in a strained configuration, holding it in place. The projections do not lie along the undercut of each tooth nor do they need to. In fact, Fig. 10 shows that the projections are positioned against the side of the teeth. Therefore, Parker does not imply that the projections lie in the undercut of each tooth, much less "fit in the undercut of the tooth".

Nevertheless, to even further distinguish the cited art, Applicants have added new claims 29-37. Claims 29-31 depend from claim 24 and find their support from paragraph 0010. New independent claim 32 and claims 33-37 dependent thereon explicitly recite structure shown and described in Figs. 15A-15B and paragraphs 0010 and 0057-0058. Claim 32 recites: